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resolution authorizing the President, after March 4 next, to name such a commission, and it is said that one or two influential Republicans have already committed themselves to the plan. It is to be hoped the Republican Senate will have nothing to do with Mr. Whitney's non-partisan business men's commission or with any other plan to aid the Democrats in temporizing on the tariff question. They are pledged to repeal the McKinley law as soon as they come in power, and the Republicans should not do anything to relieve them from this pledge. Let them face the music.

JAY GOULD.

The death of Jay Gould attracts public attention simply on account of his great wealth. Aside from this there was nothing in his character or career to distinguish him from thousands of others. It was his great wealth and his methods of acquiring it that made him one of the most widely known and, in the opinion of very many, one of the most infamous men of the times. If he had become immensely wealthy by other means than those he used, or if he had used those means unsuccessfully and failed to acquire wealth, he would have attracted no more notice than thousands of others who have tried, and are still trying, with poor success, to accomplish the same results. It was his stupendous success that made him conspicuous and notorious.

Mr. Gould was a remarkable personification of the money-making spirit of the century. There are millions of Americans just as anxious to be rich as he was, and who would not hesitate a moment to use the same means and methods to accomplish the same results if they knew how. He differed from the mass of those who are in pursuit of wealth mainly in that he knew how. He was a real Napoleon of finance. He was not much worse than the times in which he lived. His business career began just before the war and embraced a period which, of all others in our history, afforded a great field for money-making investments and speculations. It was a period of great undertakings, great progress, rapid development, large enterprises and big profits. Gould was thoroughly imbued with the mercantile spirit of the age, and, having the ability to utilize the conditions that surrounded him, he achieved phenomenal success. If he had lived in other times he might have been imbued with a different spirit. The latter half of the nineteenth century is a material, mercenary, money-making age, and Jay Gould was its most illustrious example. His greatest vice was the vice of the age—insatiable greed for wealth with very little regard as to how it is obtained. His desire for wealth was, apparently, unlimited, and his methods were utterly unscrupulous. In the pursuit of his ends he stopped at nothing. He purchased courts and judges, bribed legislatures, wrecked railroads, subsidized newspapers, precipitated panics, manipulated the stock market, and did many other things that showed an utter disregard for public morals, public interests and private rights. His crimes were all great ones. He had no time for the practice of small vices. His schemes were too great to take account of individual rights or individual sufferings, and he did not seem to recognize the existence of such a thing as public morals. His offenses were against society and mankind. Either he never stopped to consider how much wrong and injustice he was doing and what a demoralizing influence his methods had, or else he smothered all such considerations with the reflection that everything was fair in business and that it was necessary for him to succeed. In the pursuit of his great schemes for the acquisition of wealth he was without conscience or remorse. In business transactions he was as devoid of moral sense as a bronze statue. In short, he was the very incarnation of the money-making spirit of the age.

Yet this man, who was in some respects one of the greatest criminals of the age, was a model of private and domestic virtue. Though a debaucher of justice, he was a devoted husband and father. A poisoner of public morals, his own were without a blemish. A professional railroad-wrecker, his family life was as placid as a summer sky. He could cheat the public out of millions, but he never cheated a tradesman out of a cent. Though his greed for wealth was insatiable, he found time for self-improvement, for collecting books, paintings and flowers, and for cultivating the spiritual side of life. He took great pride in his children, and especially in his oldest son, and one of his best exhibitions of character was in the way he received and treated his daughter-in-law, who had neither wealth nor social position before his son married her. Jay Gould took her at once into his affections and from the moment she entered the family treated her with every mark of consideration. These are the redeeming traits in a character of which perhaps the public has seen chiefly the worst side.

THE PITTSBURGH PLAN.

Whatever may be the successful solution of the social evil problem, the Pittsburgh plan is not to be recommended, even as a temporary expedient. Law is law, and it is the duty of public officers to enforce it without regard to their own private opinions of its merits or its justice, but it is at no time necessary to enforce it with undue harshness. In Pittsburgh, as in Indianapolis and most other cities, it has not been customary to close disreputable houses, as the law requires, but to keep watch of them and to "regulate" them by irregular raids and a system of fines, which is a species of black-mail and the price the inmates pay for not being compelled to "move on." In Pittsburgh the moral and righteous element of the city took notice of this evil, and, headed by the ministers, demanded that it be suppressed by the closing of all resorts in which it flourished. The Mayor, driven by the force of virtuous opinion, issued a letter to the chief of police which is a curious document, being at once an order to obey the law, an apology for his course,

with a doubt of its efficacy, an essay on vice, and an assurance that not the officers, but the public which demands the proceeding, is responsible for consequences. Probably by way of making the order productive of the worst results the chief directed all resorts closed within twenty-four hours, with the effect, as related in the Journal's dispatches, of bringing 150 or more homeless, poverty-stricken, wretched women before the Mayor asking what was to become of them.

In the heat of their denunciations of this vice, some of these ministers had made vague promises of assistance to all Magdalens who would apply to them for aid and refuge, but when the emergency arose these ministers disclaimed all responsibility. "I suppose," said one on being asked what should be done with the women, "I suppose they must take their chances." Another declared that they were criminals, and deserved no more commiseration than persons sent to the penitentiary for any cause. Several expressed pity and a willingness to extend a helping hand to any penitents among the outcasts who should apply for aid, but when two of them called at the house of one of these shelters after hastily abandoning their own, he appeared at an upper window and said: "I have no room for women of your kind; go away and don't bother me." When asked afterwards by a reporter if his church had a home for Magdalens, he answered: "No! Why should we be asked to take care of them? They do not belong to us."

Fortunately several charitable church institutions were open to them, but these refugees could not serve to make the course of officials or of the confessedly good people commendable; for cruelty, even to sinners, is never a praiseworthy thing. To turn hundreds of women, however disreputable, out of their homes without warning, or after they had experienced and had been led to expect a degree of legal protection, and to take no measures to give them respectable homes cannot tend to the elimination of vice from the community. It need not be supposed by the most sanguine that Pittsburgh will be transformed at once into a holy place because of the driving out of these women and the holding them up to public shame and execration. Reform can never be brought about by this process. As the Mayor says in his letter, "the attempt has ever been made to treat this two-sided crime with one-sided laws." The women who have been turned out to find new homes in Pittsburgh, or to hide themselves in other communities, were not alone in their infamy, but the sharers of it escape without shame or reprobation. Until public sentiment visits upon men who frequent vice resorts the same scorn which it measures out to the women, and until the law deals with such visitors with equal severity, lasting reform cannot be accomplished. And of all measures for modifying the evil the Pittsburgh plan is the least promising. That city's last state is likely to be worse than its first, but the worst cannot be known immediately, for the more the vice is hidden the more dangerous it is and the more difficult its eradication.

THE INCOME TAX RECALLED.

Mr. Taubeneck, in the last assortment of misinformation which he was able to inflict upon the public, declared that the income tax levied during the war "yielded, as I remember now, about \$200,000,000 during the last year." As a matter of fact, the amount of money derived from the income tax the last year it was in force was \$14,436,861.78, and the largest amount collected in any one year was in 1866—\$72,092,159.08. The law was in force from 1862 to 1872, ten years, during which period \$346,911,703.48 was collected under the head of income tax. As Mr. Taubeneck credited \$200,000,000 to one year, while there was less than 50 per cent. more collected in ten years, he was remarkably near the truth—for him. The income tax was imposed during the war, every Democrat voting against it. The act, which contained a provision limiting its life to 1870, was amended and extended to the close of 1872, and this extension was opposed by nearly all the Democrats in both houses of Congress. The largest number of persons assessed under the income-tax law was 460,170, in 1866. Under the amendments of 1869 the number of persons assessed was 74,775, in 1871. When the bill extending the income tax was last before Congress Mr. Holman offered an amendment to limit it to the holders of United States bonds, and many Democrats voted with him for his proposition. If it had carried the government's credit would have been ruined, and instead of refunding its bonds at 4 per cent. it would have been exceedingly difficult to have disposed of them at any figure when they matured. While the Democrats have from time to time advocated in an inflammatory manner in the West the revival of an income tax, no real attempt has been made to do so. The only income tax the country ever had was a Republican and a war measure. That there are many people, particularly in the West, who are inclined to favor an income tax there can be no doubt. As between a tax on sugar and a tax on incomes, if either becomes necessary, the people would be for the tax imposed upon larger incomes rather than one imposed upon every home in the land.

Mr. Dolan, an experienced and successful woolen manufacturer of Philadelphia, recently remarked at a dinner that free wool would reduce the cost of a \$75 suit by only 90 cents, but the New York Evening Post, which has had no experience in the woolen business, except to cry down American manufacturers, asserts that the reduction would be three times that figure, or \$2.25. But the saving of \$2.25 on a \$75 suit would not justify the ruin of the wool-growing industry of this country.

Don't let those Democrats who foresee that any general overhauling of the tariff will result in business depression shrink the responsibility by declaring that no revenue can be spared now, because a horizontal cut of the present

duties 25 per cent. would increase the receipts of the treasury for the time, as 50 per cent. more goods would be imported with a loss of only 25 per cent. of the duties.

The efforts to incite rain-fall by a racket will not be continued by Congress at the suggestion of an alleged Illinois statesman who took his pay for building a capitol in Texas in land upon which rain rarely falls, and which would be worth much more if the government, by bombarding the heavens, could produce the earlier and the later rain. The thing cannot be done.

It begins to look as if New York would become the Democratic factional battle-ground during the next four years, as it was during the Democratic administrations of Van Buren and Polk. Already, before the work of the Cleveland administration is begun, there is a very ugly feeling between the old factions.

The Minneapolis Tribune says the school text-book contract in Minnesota will not be renewed nor any effort made to that end, and that all friends of education will unite in an effort to secure a free text-book law at the coming session of the Legislature. The present contract was made about fifteen years ago and expired last August. It has given fair satisfaction, but it is the universal opinion among Minnesota teachers and friends of education that it has outlived its usefulness, and that the time has come for free school books. The Tribune says:

The chief benefit claimed for free text-books is the extension of educational advantages to those who are in whole or in part excluded from attendance at school by reason of the inability or unwillingness of parents or pupils to purchase the required books. The benefit arising from free text-books is marked by a material increase in school enrollment and in regularity of attendance. In Massachusetts factory centers this increase of attendance is reported as ranging from 10 to 30 per cent. Free text-books in such centers seem to be well required in order to make the public schools free in fact as well as in name. A larger, more prompt and regular attendance, however, seems to be the general report wherever the free text-book system has been tried.

Another advantage arising from the State purchase and control of books is economy in purchase and use. A saving of 20 per cent. and over in first cost is reported by some districts. The average life of a book under State control is reported as being from two to three years. This enables a single book, often, to pass through the hands of a dozen or score of pupils. Better care is reported under the free text-book system than under that of individual ownership, inasmuch as under the latter system each pupil has a direct power as to the use and care of books. The average cost of books, under the present system, has been reduced in some schools to as low as a trifle over a dollar per pupil yearly.

This illustrates the drift of opinion among the friends of education everywhere. Free text-books are a logical necessity of free schools.

The attention of Lieutenant Totten is called to the fact that, when the effects of a Parisian ballet-girl were seized for debt, last week, she recovered them by proving in court that she was under twenty-one years of age.

Mr. Cleveland has returned to New York, but he is not likely to begin pulling out the plume until his thumb has recovered.

Chicago is developing a fog equal to that of dear old Lunnion, and New York's Anglomaniacs are wan with woe.

INDIANA BREWERS.

Executive Committee Discusses the Labor Question and Lost Keys.

The executive committee of the Indiana State Brewers' Association met in Room 30 at the Bates yesterday afternoon. Those present were President F. M. Cook, of Evansville; Albert Lieber, Indianapolis; Crawford Fairbanks, Terre Haute; T. Wagner, Lafayette; and Alvin Carl, Cincinnati. The meeting was held behind closed doors. Mr. Carl, who is at the head of the Aurora company, was seen by a Journal reporter last night, and was asked what the purpose of the meeting was.

He said: "Simply to discuss beer interests in the State, and nothing was done that would be of the least interest to the public. For instance, we tried to arrive at a plan to prevent the grocers who have to meet annually in the great hall, and who have been customary for each company to collect its own keg, and if they are across those belonging to one else, to let them alone. We are trying to arrange it so that all kegs will be collected and sent to their proper owners, and so all in our power to meet the just demands of organized labor, and that question was discussed, with many others of a similar nature."

He was asked if prices or anything that would affect the trade was talked of or decided on. He answered: "We were most emphatic negative. 'When brewers get together,' he said, 'there is always a cry of combine and advanced prices, but it is not true in this case, as it has not been in many others.'"

"Will the brewers work with the Liquor League?" "If you mean to advance the interests of trade, yes."

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The session lasted all of the afternoon, and most of the members of the committee left for their homes directly after the supper hour. Henry Bora, the Eastern agent of the liquor league, was present at the meeting, but Mr. Carl declared that he was merely West on an inspecting tour.

COST OF STATE INSTITUTIONS.

Annual Financial Report of the Blind Asylum Filed.

The financial report of the Indiana Institute for the Blind was filed yesterday with the Governor. It shows that of the \$33,000 appropriated by the Legislature, \$30,244.15 was expended. The receipts from the industrial school's shop were \$2,755.55; from the greenhouse, \$73.78; and from the clothing account, \$216.01. Of the appropriation of \$2,470 to the industrial school, \$1,414.40 remained at the close of the year.

"KAPE YER EYE ON THE CAT"

Mr. Frenzel Continues to Run the School Board in His Own Sweet Way.

Mr. Vonnegut Again Sat Down Upon an Outrageously Exorbitant Bill Allowed—Considerable Routine Business.

"Kape yer eye on the cat." The School Board is being run now in a manner that was never known before. It is run by John P. Frenzel, and his policy is as dictatorial as that of the Czar of Russia toward his servile subjects. Whatever he says goes, because the majority of the members are Democrats, and partisanship has crept into the fold. There are three members of the School Board who deserve the condemnation of the voters of Indianapolis. They are the three new members—Russe, Roth and Adam. Any one who frequents the School Board sessions can see that Frenzel has these men completely under his control, as every action on their part bears the trade-mark of his manipulation.

A day or so before the new year the School Board elected their executive committee. The day after that the charge made by the Journal that they were Frenzel candidates was absolutely false, and that if elected they would not vote for any man for treasurer who would not agree to pay at least 3 per cent. interest for the School Board funds. Since their election, in the face of this positive declaration, they have repeatedly insulted the men who voted for them by absolutely refusing to vote for or entertain any motion in the direction of securing to the School Board interest on the funds, although proposition after proposition has been made to that effect.

Their conduct has been a disgrace to the Board, and in carrying them out the acts of this positively insulting trio have been so flagrant that even the Sentinel, the Democratic organ, has been constrained from time to time to point with shame to their record. For some months Mr. Clemens Vonnegut, a member of the School Board, has been making an honest effort to compel the treasurer to pay to the board at least 3 per cent. interest for the funds. It will be remembered that at the last meeting of the board he introduced a resolution criticizing Czar Frenzel for his obstinate refusal to pay interest on the funds. This resolution should of course have been made a matter of record on the secretary's books. Mr. Vonnegut read the resolution, but did not bring to light anything of the character named. Mr. Vonnegut asked if it had been made a matter of record.

"It has not," said the Czar. "I move, then, that it be inserted," said Mr. Vonnegut. Mr. Coffin seconded the motion, but it was lost. Such an obstinate refusal to pay interest on the funds, taken in this matter, this resolution should of course have been made a matter of record on the secretary's books. Mr. Vonnegut read the resolution, but did not bring to light anything of the character named. Mr. Vonnegut asked if it had been made a matter of record.

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